



FLIGHT PREPARATION

Arizona Army National Guard Soldiers frequently perform search-and-rescue missions.

National Guard Rescues Canyon Flooding Victims

By MSG Mike R. Smith, National Guard Bureau

ARLINGTON, VA—At least 14 Arizona Army National Guard (AZARNG) Soldiers and two UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters assisted in the evacuation and emergency care of residents and campers near the Grand Canyon recently after heavy rains overflowed the Redlands Earthen Dam and cut off routes to a remote village and reservation.

Officials said the Arizona Guard's 98th Aviation Troop Command airlifted more than 174 people from the Supai Village area, which is a popular summer tourist destination for paddlers and hikers at the Grand Canyon. Roads and

footpaths to the area were closed because of heavy rains and flooding, which cut off access for nearly 400 local residents, Havasupai tribal members and an unknown number of campers. Supai is located inside the Grand Canyon and is normally accessible only by foot, horseback or helicopter.

Guard officials said the AZARNG

worked through the state's Department of Emergency Management to support federal, state and local responders.

The Coconino County Sheriff's Office directed air rescue missions that included the two Black Hawks, and a rescue helicopter from the Department of Public Safety.

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>> Air Force Maj. Paul Aguirre



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on being a statewide network that can assist with any type of emergency," said Air Force Maj. Paul Aguirre, an Arizona Guard spokesperson. "This includes the federal, county and state assets that are working diligently to make sure the people of northern Arizona are safe."

Other Guard members will continue to work with the Department of Emergency Management to ensure those evacuated remain safe and cared for, including making sure evacuee shelters are properly maintained, Aguirre said. **GX**